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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,091	07/22/2003	Takahiro Takemoto	NECA 20,522	8769
26304 7590 04/30/2010 KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585				
EXAMINER				
PHAM, TAMMY T				
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2629				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/625,091

Applicant(s)

TAKEMOTO, TAKAHIRO

Examiner

TAMMY PHAM

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11, 13-16 and 18-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-10, 14-16, 18-20 and 22-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,11,13,21 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 19 February 2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 2, 7, 12, 17, have been cancelled. Claims 4-10, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, have been withdrawn. Claim 28 has been added. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 21, 25-28, are considered below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 19 February 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

§ 103 Rejection

4. **In regards to independent claims 1, 11, 21**, Applicant submits that “*Moriyama fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the resetting operation is carried out before the writing period where at least the polarity of the data voltage is not inverted (Remarks 13).*” This is not persuasive.

5. As indicated below, the claim language remains broad. In that the claim language fails to define what constitutes as a “*writing period*” and describe how the voltage is “*not inverted.*”

Hence, due to the lack of definition, the broadest and reasonable interpretation will be taken. Moriyama continues to read upon the claim language because Moriyama teaches that the resetting operation (Fig. 2) is carried out before the writing period (Fig. 2, item t2) where the polarity of the data voltage (Fig. 2, item "Video Signal") is not inverted (time in which item "Video Signal" is not being inverted).

6. **In regards to independent claims 1, 11, 21,** Applicant submits that *"Moriyama fails to disclose and teach the feature of the present invention that the relationship between the polarity of a horizontal period and the polarity of a next horizontal period, i.e., the same polarity along the vertical direction of the screen (Remarks 13)."* This is not persuasive.

7. In particular, this argument is moot because this argument is based upon concepts which are not explicitly expressed in the claims.

8. **In regards to independent claims 1, 11, 21,** Applicant submits that *"in Moriyama, the writing operation is carried out by selecting the non-display data from the source driver circuit,, not by resetting the outputs of the source driver circuit (Remarks 16)."* This is not persuasive.

9. In particular, this argument is moot because this argument is based upon concepts which are not explicitly expressed in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 21, 25-27, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

11. **In regards to independent claims 1, 11, 21,** the newly amended claims refer to *"the writing period."* However, the claim language remains unclear as to what Applicant is referring to as to determine what constitutes this. Hence, appropriate correction is necessary. Taking the broadest, reasonable interpretation, Examiner will assume this term to mean whenever a voltage is being applied to the device.

12. **In regards to claims 3, 13, 25-27,** these claims are being rejected for being dependent upon improper claims, as discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moriyama et al. (US Patent No: 6,232,945 B1).

14. **In regards to independent claims 1, 11,** Moriyama teaches of an active-matrix addressing LCD device (Fig. 1, item 501) comprising:

15. a panel including an active-matrix substrate (Fig. 1, item 101), an opposite substrate (Fig. 1, item 101), and a liquid crystal layer (Fig. 1, item 151) sandwiched by the active-matrix

substrate (Fig. 1, item 101) and the opposite substrate (Fig. 1, item 101), the active-matrix substrate (Fig. 1, item 101) having data lines (Fig. 1, item X1-Xm), scanning lines (Fig. 1, item Y1-Yn) that intersect with the data lines (Fig. 1, item X1-Xm) at intersections, pixels (Fig. 1, item 151) arranged near the respective intersections, and TFTs (Fig. 1, item 121) arranged as switching elements (Fig. 1, item 121) for the respective pixels (Fig. 1, item 151);

16. a source driver circuit (Fig. 1, item 291) for driving the data lines (Fig. 1, item X1-Xm);

17. a gate driver circuit (Fig. 1, item 293) for driving the scanning lines (Fig. 1, item Y1—n);
and

18. a controller circuit (not shown) for controlling the source driver (Fig. 1, item 101) and the gate driver (Fig. 1, item 293),

19. wherein a polarity of a data voltage (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) applied to each of the pixels (Fig. 1, item 151) by way of a corresponding one of the data lines (Fig. 1, item X1-Xm) and a corresponding one of the TFTs (Fig. 1, item 121) is inverted in every set of two or more horizontal synchronizing periods (Fig. 18, note that the “Video Signal” is inverted in at least every third horizontal synchronizing period) by the controller circuit (not shown);

20. wherein the source driver (Fig. 1, item 291; Fig. 2) has a resetting means (Fig. 2) for resetting the data voltages outputted by the source driver circuit (Fig. 1, item 291; Fig. 2) in a blanking period (Fig. 18, when the Reset Signal is ON) of each of the horizontal synchronizing periods of the set; and

21. wherein the resetting means (Fig. 2) performs its resetting operation (Fig. 2) with reference to a latch signal (Fig. 2, item “Reset”) supplied to the source driver circuit (Fig. 1, item 291; Fig. 2) by the controller circuit (not shown; column 6, lines 45-50; column 16, lines 45-50),

the latch signal (Fig. 2, item “Reset”) being started between the end of the writing period (Fig. 3, item t2) and the end of the blanking period (Fig. 2, when Reset Signal is ON); and

22. wherein the resetting operation (Fig. 2) is completed before the writing period Fig. 3, item t2) when the polarity of the data voltage (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) is not inverted (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal” is not inverted at time t2); and

23. wherein the data lines (Fig. 1, item X1-Xm) do not apply a subsequent data voltage (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) to each of the pixels (Fig. 1, item 151) in the blanking period (Fig. 2, when Reset Signal is ON).

24. **In regards to independent claim 28**, in addition to the claim limitations as addressed above in claim 1, Moriyama further teaches of performing a resetting operation (Fig. 2) of resetting the data voltages (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) outputted by the source driver circuit (Fig. 1, item 291; Fig. 2) in a blanking period (Fig. 2, when Reset Signal is ON) of each of the horizontal synchronizing periods of the set starting at an end of a writing period (Fig. 3, item t2), the resetting operation is completed when the data voltages (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) are a middle point voltage during the blanking period (Fig. 2, when Reset Signal is ON).

25. **In regards to claims 3, 13**, Moriyama teaches that each of the data voltages (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) alternately has a positive value or a negative value in the polarity inversion period; and

26. wherein the resetting means (Fig. 2) is controlled in such a way that each of the data voltages (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) will reach a middle point value between the positive

value (Fig. 18, positive value of "Video Signal") and the negative value (Fig. 18, negative value of "Video Signal") after the resetting operation (Fig. 2; Fig. 18, when the "Reset" pulse is ON) is completed (Fig. 18, column 16, lines 45-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

27. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama et al. (US Patent No: 6,232,945 B1) in view of Fukutofu et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,734,840 B2)
28. **In regards to claims 25-27**, Moriyama fails to teach that the data voltage applied to each of the pixels by way of the corresponding one of the data lines and the corresponding one of the TFTs is not inverted after each horizontal synchronizing period.
29. Fukutofu teaches that the polarity of the data voltage applied to each of the pixels by way of the corresponding one of the data lines and the corresponding one of the TFTs is not inverted after each horizontal synchronizing period (Fig. 3b, column 17, lines 19-24).
30. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the polarity not be inverted with every horizontal synchronizing period as taught by Fukutofu, with the display of Moriyama. This combination allows for a reduction or prevention of flickering and does not unnecessarily switch polarity patterns (Fukutofu, column 2, lines 46-54).

31. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama et al. (US Patent No: 6,232,945 B1) in view of Hirobumi (Japanese Publication No: 2001-249643).

32. **In regards to independent claim 21**, in addition the teachings of Moriyama above in claims 1, 11, Moriyama further teaches that the polarity of the data voltages (Fig. 18, item “Video Signal”) supplied by way of the data lines (Fig. 2, items X1-Xm) is alternately inverted in every set of the horizontal synchronizing periods (Fig. 18, item “One Horizontal Scanning Period”) and in every vertical synchronizing period (Fig. 21, item “Vertical Scanning Period”) within every frame period (column 19, lines 10-15), thereby driving the device (Fig. 1, item 501).

33. Moriyama fails to specify that the polarity of the data voltages is inverted in every set of two horizontal synchronizing periods (the 2-H dot inversion method).

34. Hirobumi teaches that the polarity of the data voltages (Drawing 4, last waveform shown) is inverted in every set of two horizontal synchronizing periods (Drawing 4, item 2H) (the 2-H dot inversion method).

35. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to invert the data voltages every set of two horizontal synchronizing periods (the 2-H dot inversion method) as taught by Hirobumi with the display device of Moriyama because inverting the data voltage only one horizontal synchronizing period is insufficient in charging the LCD (Hirobumi, section [0010]).

Conclusion

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7773. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 (Mon-Fri).
37. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
38. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TP
28 April 2010

Tammy Pham
/Tammy Pham/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629